

**Theme:** The temple was built as a sign of God’s presence among his people. At the entrance stood two stunning reminders of God’s promises and his power for those who walk before him. A faithful king, relying on God’s word and strength, would be the key to God’s dwelling among his people.

**Background:** A land and a people are established in peace! Building of the temple can proceed.

**Introduction:** My love/hate relationships with building projects.

**NOTE:** Keep two thoughts in mind as we look at these chapters:

1. The temple and Solomon’s palace are signs of God’s blessing and presence
2. The Lord has chosen to rule his people through a human king

## **I. God Prepares the Way** (Chapter 5)

### A. Peace in the land

1. David, man of war
2. Solomon is established in peace (cf. 1 Kings 4:20,21,24b,25)  
- Wisdom leads to peace (and order)
3. Pursuing what was promised (1 Kings 5:1-6; 2 Samuel 7:13)
4. Foreshadowing the kingdom of God

### B. The nations come

1. Hiram’s delegation (5:1)
2. Solomon recounts God’s promise (5:4,5)
3. Hiram blesses the Lord (5:7)

NOTE: Unbelievers can recognize blessings that the people of God enjoy (cf. Isaiah 60:3; Genesis 22:18)

4. Providing supplies and labor

## **II. The Foundation Is Laid** (Chapter 6)

### A. An historic event – monumental, actually

1. Marking the day!
  - a. The Exodus – after 430 years (to the day!)  
- Delivered from bondage (Exodus 12:40-41; Genesis 15:13)
  - b. The land at Rest – 480 years later  
- Delivered from their enemies (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Samuel 7:10-11)

NOTE: God’s plans don’t always unfold quickly! But, rest assured, they will be fulfilled!

2. In reverence and awe (6:7)  
-No construction noise

## B. To show forth His glory

1. Construction begins – In the fourth year! (6:37)
2. Inside vs. outside
  - a. The things most people won't see? (cf. 6:21ff, esp.29,30)
    - Gold-covered everything
  - b. The extravagance of Worship!
    - There have been complaints (cf. Matthew 24:6-13)
    - Reflecting glory – and *holiness*

NOTE: Temple represented God's presence on earth – which itself would one day be “holy to the Lord”

NOTE: How much of creation (and its beauty) remains “unseen” by human eyes?

## C. The true foundation (6:11-13)

1. It's not about a building
  - It is not the stones
  - It's God's word!
2. It's not about ritual (1 Samuel 15:22)

## D. The weight of leadership

1. Message to the king!
  - Faithfulness (Leviticus 19:2)
2. As the king goes, so go the people!!

NOTE: We aren't kings – but one man's wisdom, actions, directions – can have a monumental effect on a nation or a family.

## III. The Finished Work (Chapter 7)

### A. A matter of emphasis

1. Time difference (7 years vs. 13 years)
2. Text difference (70 verses vs. 12 verses)

### B. Sharing in the beauty of holiness (Reflection of Glory)

### C. The two witnesses – Jachin and Boaz

1. Getting our attention
2. Jachin – “He will establish” or “May he establish”
  - Reminding the people of God's *Promise*
3. Boaz – “In him (Yhwh) is strength” or “By him (Yhwh) he is mighty”
  - Reminder of God's *Power* – God Provides!

## IV. Our Sure Foundation

1. The whole account looks forward to greater fulfillment.
2. The foundation of the temple (God's house, residence) isn't the stone and wood; it's God's Word and promise.
3. Our foundation isn't in our works but in God's living Word and promise.